TASK FORCE RUSSIA -- BIWEEKLY REPORT 17-30 APRIL 1993 19TH REPORT

TASK FORCE RUSSIA (POW/MIA)

REPORT TO THE U.S. DELEGATION, U.S.-RUSSIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIAs

7 MAY 1993

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0300

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

DAPE-ZB-TFR 7 May 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY STAFF

SUBJECT: Nineteenth Report, Task Force Russia (POW/MIA)

1. The 7 May report of Task Force Russia is being disseminated to OSD and the members of the U.S.-Russian Joint Commission, who include Members of Congress and Ambassador Malcolm Toon. This report consists of a summary of POW/MIA information obtained by the Task Force during the two week reporting period, 17 April 1993 - 30 April 1993.

2. Particularly noteworthy in the report is Annex A, which summarizes the extensive response the Task Force is receiving as a result of the recent Commission visit to the Baltic Countries. As the response indicates, many citizens of these countries suffered in the Gulag during the period of Soviet hegemony, during which time many of them encountered American POWs.

3. Like all Task Force Russia reports, the document is unclassified, however, its distribution is limited to Commission members and others who have official roles in the POW/MIA community.

In Service to our Missing

/signed/

BERNARD LOEFFKE Major General, USA Director, Task Force Russia

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

This report has been prepared for the use of the Commission in pursuit of our mission. While it is an unclassified document in accordance with Department of Defense classification guidelines for POW/MIA information, it nonetheless contains casualty-related information and should not be disseminated outside of Commission channels pending efforts by the Department of Defense Executive Agent to locate and notify as many of the next of kin as feasible.

BIWEEKLY REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

TASK FORCE RUSSIA (POW/MIA)

Period of Report: 17 April--30 April 1993

1. SUMMARY: The highlight of the reporting period for Task Force Russia-Washington (TFR-W) was

the attempt to analyze the implications of the "1205" document on U.S. Vietnam War POWs. This document reached the U.S. Government in two ways: through the good offices of Dr. Stephen Morris, a private researcher, and, officially, through the Russian side of the Joint Commission. Task Force Russia's interim position on this document has been provided to the Army leadership in an unclassified paper. Although the full truth about this document and its contents may never be known, TFR's current position can be summarized briefly as follows: (1) the document must be taken seriously as a statement about U.S. POWs that was acquired and endorsed by senior Soviet officials and retained in the Central Committee Archives; at the same time, every effort must be made to explain any inaccuracies in the document--which can best be done with the full cooperation of the Government of Vietnam, as well as the Government of Russia, (2) the document's claims, however unlikely they may sound, mandate a re-examination of the issue of U.S. service members who may have become prisoners of the Vietnamese, and (3) work on this document and the questions it raises should be done at the unclassified level to the maximum extent possible. Task Force Russia-Moscow (TFR-M) simultaneously worked with representatives of the U.S. Embassy and the Russian Government in an attempt to locate and acquire the Vietnamese original of the "1205" document; however, it now appears possible that the translation into Russian may have been done in Hanoi and no Vietnamese version may have made its way into the Russian archives. Further, although the U.S. side of the Joint Commission acquired this document through official Russian channels, the uproar in Moscow surrounding its public release has resulted in restrictions on TFR-M's access to certain archival facilities. On the other hand, President Yeltsin's referendum victory appears to have strengthened the position of those Russians open to cooperation with the Joint Commission. TFR-M also continued its aggressive interview program and deployed a research team to Vorkuta and prepared to deploy a team to Ukraine. In each of the Baltic States, Ambassador Toon's personal appeals and the superb groundwork laid with the local media by U.S. Embassy personnel resulted in an influx of letters and contacts, some of which appear of interest. Much of this correspondence has yet to reach TFR-M or TFR-W; however, initial assessments from the U.S. Embassies in the Baltics enable us to provide an overview of the type of information received (see Annex A).

2. UPDATE ON ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS:

A. TFR-M, in conjunction with representatives of U.S. Embassy Kiev, prepared to deploy a team to Ukraine to meet with Viktor Pugantsev, who currently claims that a key figure in the POW/MIA quest now resides in the same apartment building with him. Although Pugantsev's past claims have consistently proven to be without substance and his behavior has prejudiced relations between the U.S. and Russian sides of the Joint Commission, TFR-M has decided to follow his lead one final time. The TFR position remains that we will "leave no stone unturned."

B. TFR is planning and coordinating for a joint expedition to Iturup (southern Kuriles) and, possibly, to Sakhalin to search for U.S. POW remains from WWII. Key participants will be two Russian-capable members of TFR, a team from CILHI, whose size remains to be determined, and a Russian contingent that the Russians acknowledge will include a security services (formerly KGB) representative. The Russian side has agreed that this expedition will be low-key and will not seek publicity in this politically-charged region. The projected time frame for the expedition is June, pending the report of a preliminary visit to the sites by a representative of the Russian side.

C. TFR-W anticipates sending a two-man team to Latvia (and, possibly, to other Baltic states) in early summer to pursue leads that emerged during and in the wake of the visit of the U.S. side of the Joint Commission in early April.

D. TFR's advertising campaign, staged in coordination with U.S. Embassy Moscow, continues to expand in the former Soviet Union. Prior to the 8-9 April Joint Commission meeting in Moscow, Russian-language advertisements appeared in various Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian newspapers, drawing a broad range of responses. In Moscow, an announcement appeared in *Rossiya* on 7 April. The same announcement will appear in Russia's military newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star),* for a two-week period beginning 10 May. An advertisement in *Izvestia is* pending publication. Additional announcements will appear in *Memorial,* a newspaper which caters to former GULAG prisoners. TFR-M also received an

invitation from General-Major Kalinin, commander of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) prison system, to advertise in the MVD's internal newspaper. Additional advertising has been approved for use in ethnic Armenian and Latvian newspapers in the United States (copies have been submitted for publication cost estimates). The same advertisements have been forwarded, through the Department of State, to the U.S. Embassies in Riga, Latvia, and Yerevan, Armenia, for local publication.

3. EVENTS, INTERVIEWS, CONTACTS, AND MEETINGS ATTENDED:

A. TFR-M representatives deployed to the Naval Archives of the Russian Federation at Krasnoarmeyskiy Prospekt 2, Gatchina, forty kilometers south of St. Petersburg. Although the visit had been coordinated with LTC Osipov of the Russian side of the Joint Commission, the TFR team discovered upon arrival that the Gatchina staff had not been notified of the visit. Nonetheless, the TFR team established a strong professional rapport with the director of the archives, Captain First Rank Yuri Ivanovich Reznikov, a former SSBN commander and commander of the Kronstadt naval base. Captain Reznikov clearly grasped TFR-M's mission and stated that, as a fellow officer, he understood its sensitivity. TFR-M presented the case details on the ten Cold War shootdown incidents of primary interest and asked about the possibility of recovery of survivors at sea. Captain Reznikov stated frankly that Soviet Naval Aviation had shot down many of the U.S. aircraft, but that the Navy did not work the survivor problem in coastal areas and that this was distinctly a KGB responsibility. Captain Reznikov showed the TFR-M team a tasking letter, dated mid-April 1993, from Colonel Mukhin of the MOD archives, asking Gatchina to provide the Joint Commission with specific information on a number of Cold War incidents. TFR-M added the 8 April 1950 Baltic shootdown incident to this list. Captain Reznikov is investigating Soviet submarine losses from the Cold War era and expressed interest in documentary assistance from the U.S. TFR-M regards this as a possibly fruitful opportunity for a demonstration of reciprocity that might return significant dividends and will suggest to Reznikov that he pass a request for our assistance to the Joint Commission. Reznikov favors a return visit by a TFR-M team after 12 May 1993 (following a series of Russian holidays). At that meeting, TFR-M and Reznikov will map out a research plan. TFR-M representatives regarded Reznikov as a solid, credible professional officer who would do credit to any military establishment. The team departed from Gatchina on "very amiable" terms.

B. A TFR-M team visited Vorkuta to investigate a report of a photograph of Vietnam-era U.S. POWs at the Vorkuta Museum as well as a report of American prisoners buried in Abez. The photo in question turned out to be of Latvian prisoners from 1955. A photocopy of the photo has been received by TFR-W). While there was no documentary indication of U.S. prisoners buried locally, records were uncovered of three alleged Americans who had been imprisoned at Abez--but none of them were POWs. The three were all women who had been prisoners in the 1950's. The first was Alisa (or Alice) Margarita Karlovna Verner (Werner), reputedly the daughter of an American Communist who had emigrated to the Soviet Union. There is some confusion in the archival source as to whether this person was actually a German born in 1931, Hedwig(a) Werner, who was listed as an "American spy" and had been transferred from the Abez camps to Voroshilovsky Oblast on 10 December 1953. The second, Fanni Borisovna Leyb (Leib) was a mathematician, born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1914, but listed archivally as a Jewish citizen of the USSR and a scientific worker. She was arrested on 20 April 1951 and sentenced to ten years for being "a danger to society due to connections with a foreign intelligence service." She served in Abez from 1952 until 1956, when she was transferred to the Dubravsky prison camp. The last, Isabella Bagratovna Shiffer, was allegedly a translator from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. She was born in Baku in 1902. On 17 February 1955, she was released from prison and sent to a nursing home.

C. TFR-M paid two visits to the Institute of Military History (IMH) to meet with Russian military historians in a quest for documentary information and leads on individuals who might possess knowledge on the POW/MIA issue. The primary point of contact for TFR-M is the head of the Foreign Military History Directorate (FMHD) at the IMH, (Doctor of Historical Science) Captain First Rank Valeriy Nikolayevich Vartanov. Vartanov was not available during the first visit, but was represented by the Deputy Chief of the FMHD, Colonel Vladimir Bogdanov (tel: 147-45-61). During the first visit, TFR-M also met with LTC Sergey Lavrenov, Chief of the 3rd Department of the 2nd Directorate (tel: 147-20-19); LTC Viktor Gavrilov, chief, 4th Department, 2nd Directorate (tel: 147-35-89), and Captain Aleksandr Fedoseyev of the Fourth Department (tel: 147-35-89).

(1) IMH is located at Universitetskiy Prospekt 14, Moscow. Its current director is General-Major Vladimir Antonovich Zolotaryev. His deputy is Captain First Rank (FNU) Zimonin. There are four directorates in the institute, which are further divided into departments. The directorates are responsible for the following areas:

(a) First Directorate: Russian/Soviet Military History.

(b) Second Directorate: Foreign Military History.

(c) Third Directorate: World War II Publications.

(d) Fourth Directorate: Military Encyclopedia Publications.

(2) A wide range of topics were discussed, including the issue of possible transfers of U.S. POWs to the former USSR during the Korean or Vietnam Wars, and the status of IMH research on POW issues. While acknowledging that some files might have been "weeded out" at an earlier date, LTC Gavrilov said he presently could find no pertinent information on these subjects. He said, however, that it might be possible to follow a paper trail on any missing documents. LTC Gavrilov stressed that the archives of the NKVD/MVD Directorate of POWs and Internees (GUPVI) were a potentially lucrative source, since the organization was not disbanded until the mid-1950's [Note: the GUPVI files are currently under research for TFR-M]. Further, the KGB files were cited (as they always are) as the ultimate source of POW-related information. Colonel Bogdanov noted that General-Major Kharkov's book on POWs would be published in "a month or so n

(3) On the second visit, TFR-M representatives were received by Captain Vartanov, along with LTC Gavrilov and LTC Igor Popov (tel: 147-41-57), an associate of Colonel (Retired) Gavril Korotkov and an expert on the Korean War. The Russians mentioned Ms. Natalya Sergeyevna Lebedeva, an Institute of General History researcher reportedly working on American POW/MIA issues. TFR-M asked the Russians to assist in making contact with Ms. Lebedeva. Captain Vartanov suggested TFR-M contact the following individuals:

--Pavel Aleksandrovich Opeka, an archivist at the Central State Archives of the Soviet Army (tel: 901-65-36).

--Mikhail Sergeyevich Monakhov, Captain First Rank and Chief Military Historian of the Main Naval Staff (tel: 491-61-47), who should know where reports from naval or KGB border troops vessels pertinent to Cold War issues are kept.

--Vasiliy Ivanovich Ivanov, Colonel, Secretary of the Korean War Veterans Association (tel: 202-42-48 or 202-55-52).

--Lieutenant General (FNU) Slusarev, whom Vartanov claims succeeded the recently-deceased General Lobov as head of the 64th Fighter Corps in Korea. Vartanov could not offer Slusarev's address or telephone number, but stated that he believes that Slusarev is alive and living in Moscow [Note: TFR-M will request the assistance of the Russian side of the Joint Commission is locating General Slusarev].

--Vartanov also suggested that TFR-M contact the editor of the journal *Aviatsiya i Kosmonavtika,* in which General Lobov published a series of articles about the exploits of the 64th Fighter Corps. Vartanov said that Russian magazine editors often have very detailed authors' manuscripts in their files, from which they only published excerpts.

(4) Of note, when TFR-M discussed Colonel Korotkov's forthcoming testimony with LTC Popov, Popov, who appeared ill-at-ease throughout the meeting, stated that "Korotkov has little to lose by coming forward, as he's a *retired* colonel."

(5) Vartanov stated that IMH is working on a multi-volume book dealing with WWII POWs captured by

the Russians (Germans, Japanese, Italians, Romanians, etc.). In the course of this project, IMH researchers have also used the MND archives. Vartanov claimed that the IMH researchers had not seen much in these archives about U.S. POWs.

[MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 191112Z APR 93 AND AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 212404Z APR 93]

D. TFR-M interviewed Colonel (Retired) Anatoliy Ivanovich Mel'nik, a former Air Defense (PVO) intelligence officer who served as an advisor to the 4th Vietnamese PVO Regiment, which was stationed around Noibai Airbase northwest of Hanoi. Mel'nik offered details of 21 U.S. aircraft shootdowns by the 4th Vietnamese Regiment. He had transcribed the details of these incidents from the Vietnamese daily duty log into his personal diary, which covered the period from 15 January 1967 through 17 February 1968. Mel'nik also presented TFR-M with copies of two Vietnam War photographs, one of John McCain taken while he was in a Hanoi hospital, and the second of an unidentifiable white male pilot recovered from the water by a group of Vietnamese men. Both photographs have been forwarded to TFR-H. Mel'nik claims to hold one more photo showing the tail section of a downed F-105 with the tail number clearly visible.

[MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 261712Z APR 93]

E. TFR-M met with Vladimir Ivanovich Balabanov, a Moldavian citizen. Balabanov stated that he was an eyewitness to the crash of a U.S. "Liberator" bomber mistakenly fired upon by Soviet forces near a Soviet airfield in East Prussia in late March/early April of 1945. He said the crash site is near the village of Landberg on the Varta (Warthe) River. He claims that three crash victims were secretly buried but that the fate of eight others who parachuted from the aircraft is unknown to him. He offered to lead TFR-M to the burial site of the alleged crash victims [Note: this information was reported by Amembassy Chisinau in August 1992. TFR-M will conduct a follow-up].

[MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 271510Z APR 93]

F. TFR-M met with *Moscow News* correspondent Natasha Gevorkyan at the newspaper's office at 16/2 Ul. Tverskaya, Moscow. Gevorkyan says she has been writing about KGB affairs for the paper for the last four years. She provided the names and addresses of several former security service personnel she thought might know something about POW/MIA matters.

[MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 271510Z APR 93]

G. TFR-M contacted *Izvestiya* correspondent Valery Nikolayevich Rudnev (business tel: 209-24-84), who had recently cited a letter from a Georgiy Kravchenko concerning a "June 1953" shootdown of a U.S. aircraft by Soviet MIGs [Note: this may be a reference to the July 1953 shootdown, or to June 1952].

Kravchenko alleges he saw six, possibly seven, parachutes. Rudnev agreed to meet with TFR-M to provide further details. TFR-M will seek to contact Kravchenko directly to answer the many outstanding questions this citation raises.

[MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 271510Z APR 93]

H. A representative of TFR-M spent two days as a guest of the Russian State Military Archives (RGVA) in early April. He reviewed six hundred reference cards specially-prepared by the staff and related to documents of interest to TFR-M. The set of RGVA documents from which the reference card information has been culled numbers in the thousands. Under previously agreed terms, the RGVA has been extremely responsive, and the archive's new director, General-Major (Retired) (FNU) Zaporozhchenko (formerly of the KGB Border Troops) expressed enthusiasm for continued cooperation.

(1) The RGVA summarized the following pertinent fonds (record groups) which they had researched:

(a) 15 fonds of files from the NKVD/MVD security forces during the Great Patriotic War (WWII).

(b) 5 fonds of army records, including WWII front-level rear area NKVD units.

(c) 3 fonds from the convoy troops (77th, 78th and 86th Divisions, and the 241st Regiment/Far East).

(2) Most of the information presented deals with the repatriation of Americans--primarily aircrews--during WWII. A smaller portion includes interesting reports from the late 1940's and early 1950's on convoy troops in the Far East, Central Asia, and the Russian Republic. A minor portion of the material is of purely historical interest, addressing such issues as American citizens who were arrested for working for German firms during WWII and lists of British officers imprisoned after the intervention of 1919-1920.

(3) The research-reporting technique used by the RGVA staff involved the preparation of high quality summaries of each fond. Further, the staff extracted all references to POW, internees and any Americans onto the 600 reference cards mentioned above. The TFR-M representative reviewed these cards, annotated those which appeared useful, and requested copies of pertinent documents which had been referenced (approximately 100 documents). Of note, the RGVA seemed genuinely committed to assisting TFR-M.

(4) Briefly, the following major groupings of information appeared of interest to TFR-M:

(a) Aircrews repatriated. These files list aircrews under NKVD control. The personnel were repatriated either through Bucharest, Rumania or Debrecen, Hungary. Several crewmen are listed as dead or wounded. The quality of the files may allow researchers to track chain-of-custody in some cases.

(b) American citizens working in Germany under the Hitler regime. Reference is to 6 Amcits working for a company named "Vil'vor" and to "Dettmer," a U.S. consular employee.

(c) Possible U.S. service members detained in Austria in the early post-WWII period. There are references to a "Joe Williams" and "James Cooper" of the 796th Separate Military Police Battalion, who were arrested on 9 August 1946. A "Corporal Zil'ta" was arrested in July, 1946.

(d) "Especially dangerous state criminals." Convoy records mention the transport of "Jacob Ruben Karyan" and "Anton Carlos Kennedy" from Prison 52 to Butyrskiy on 26 February 1948. "Cecil August Stoner" [Note: tentatively identified as British Commonwealth citizen] was transported from Khabarovsk to Moscow on 3 September 1953. "Hubert Early" [Note: name unclear, "Gubert Urlings" in Russian transliteration], born 1909, was "taken by special detachment A (Sukhomi-Sinok) to MVD camp B via Ilyinskaya Station to the Moscow-Ryazan railroad from 12 to 14 December 1950." Other documents mention convoying "Anglo-Americans" in 1947 and POWs/War Criminals (unspecified nationality) in the Far Est in 19 5 1.

(e) Convoy troops, camp order-of-battle and other activities. One document details the deployment of Far East convoy units on 10 August 1953, which may prove valuable as a baseline model for convoy operations. There are several references to "special camps" and "special contingents" in Georgia, Byelorussia and elsewhere.

(f) Statistical summaries. TFR-M requested 15 statistical summaries on foreign POWs. These originated with various NKVD organs in the groups of forces and Soviet occupation zones.

(5) The TFR-M representative did a detailed review of the archive's work to date with the Chief of Research, Natalya Yevgenyevna Yeliseyeva, and Zaporozhchenko. TFR-M then agreed to return with specific work tasks and concept for a "strategic direction" for future research.

[MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 201454Z APRIL 93]

I. TFR-M met with five representatives of Russia's Veterans Association: General-Lieutenant of Aviation (Retired) Anatoliy Ivanovich Pushkin, the association's president; General-Lieutenant of Aviation (Retired) Viktor Mikhailovich Lavsky, the vice-president; Colonel (Retired) Anatoliy Ivanovich Mel'nik; Lieutenant-Colonel Mikhail Fyodorovich Sytov, who served on General Abramov's staff in North Vietnam from August 1968 to October 1969; and Sergeant Nikolai Nikolaievich Kolesnik, the secretary of the Vietnam Veterans' Group. [Note: telephone for the association's main office is 202-55-52]. TFR-M noted that Lavsky tended to steer the conversation, often cutting off Pushkin, who had remarked that there was no point in asking the KGB for assistance (since they wouldn't really help). The two general officers left before the others, at which point Kolesnik produced the membership list of the Vietnam Veterans' Group. Along with Mel'nik and Sytov, Kolesnik then highlighted eight names which they felt should be TFR-M's first contacts.

[MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 201454Z APR 93]

4. LETTERS: Due to the unusually large amount of correspondence received by the U.S. embassies in the Baltic states in the wake of the visit of Ambassador Toon and the U.S. side of the Joint Commission, a survey of the most relevant material is attached as Annex A to this report.

5. SIGNIFICANT CONUS ACTIVITIES: The primary activity in which TFR-W was engaged was analysis and evaluation of the "1205" document. A summary of TFR's analysis has been forwarded to the U.S. Army's leadership. This summary is unclassified. Simultaneously, TFR-W is preparing the same material for publication as TFR Analytical Report #3, which TFR also intends to publish as an unclassified document.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. TFR-M continue to press the Russian side for additional documentation that might bear on the validity of the "1205" document. Further, press the Russian side for more information on the means used to obtain the original Vietnamese report.

B. TFR-W and TFR-M, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, effect the necessary final coordination for a limited-scale joint expedition to the Southern Kuriles (and, possibly, to Sakhalin) in June.

C. TFR-W coordinate with Department of State to follow up on leads raised in correspondence to Amembassies in the Baltic states. TFR-W be prepared to deploy a two man team to Latvia to follow up leads, with special attention to the 8 April 1950 "Privateer" shootdown; also be prepared to deploy to other Baltic states, as required.

ANNEX A TO TASK FORCE RUSSIA BIWEEKLY REPORT, 17-30 APRIL 1993

SUBJECT: Survey of correspondence received by and contacts initiated With Baltic Amembassies.

Note: The purpose of this annex is to briefly summarize recent information volunteered by citizens of the Baltic states regarding U.S. POW/MIAs who may have been transported to the former USSR. In the wake of Ambassador Toon's journey to the Baltics in early April with the U.S. side of the Joint Commission, a noteworthy and potentially valuable wave of voluntary contacts and correspondence reached the local U.S. embassies. A great deal of credit for this response must go to the superb media groundwork prepared by embassy personnel; further, this annex is only possible because of the prompt and thorough reporting from the U.S. embassies in the Baltic states. Because of the amount of letters and contacts, analysis will continue for several months. TFR-W intends to deploy small teams to the Baltics, in coordination with the Department of State and the local U.S. embassies, to follow up on these and other leads that have emerged.

1. ESTONIA: Letters and contacts, Amembassy, Tallinn (for more details see MSGs AMEMBASSY TALLINN 201020z APRIL 93 AND AMEMBASSY TALLINN 231223Z APRIL 93).

A. ENN KIVILO states that, while imprisoned in prison camp L/P 011, located 50 kilometers from Bratsk in the direction of Taishet, he encountered a U.S. POW--a downed pilot named Jimmy Braiton or Baker. The pilot was about 180cm tall, with dark eyes, and a limp which required him to walk with a cane. He played chess very well. The pilot was not permitted to leave the camp.

B. ELMAR MANDLA states that, while imprisoned near Norilsk in 1949, he met an American pilot called Tim or Tom, although that was not his real name. The pilot was 175-180cm tall; handsome, with dark hair. He wore civilian clothes and worked in a local metallurgical factory. After being implicated in a plot to steal a plane in the spring of 1949, Tim/Tom disappeared.

C. VALTER LINNUKUTT states that, while imprisoned in a prisoner distribution camp in Leningrad in February-March 1950, he was a cellmate of one Harry Reder, who claimed to be a U.S. lieutenant from the Philippines. [Note: "Harry Reder" is one of the several individuals from the post-WWII period who claimed to be American citizens while in the camps. His name occurs frequently. Although TFR will recheck this case once again, past research shows that Reder was, in fact, a Central European, with no claims on U.S. citizenship.]

D. ELMAR VESKER states that, in March 1953, following Stalin's death, an American named Boris Holzman was taken to Schahto Kapitalnaja Camp 75/1 in Vorkuta. Holzman said that his mother was Estonian, while his father was a Norwegian Jew. He claimed that either his father or grandfather had been a diplomat in China and that he, Holzman, was "sent to the Soviet Union from China and captured." Holzman worked for a time as a coal miner, then as an engineer. He took photos in the camp, which was strictly forbidden. Holzman was about 175-180cm tall, stout and round-faced, with curly hair.

E. ARSENY ZAHAROFF paid a follow-up visit to Amembassy Tallinn to offer further information on an alleged U.S. Army Lieutenant Vladimir Antonovich Lucashewich. Zaharoff had checked in with the embassy several times in the course of the past year to ask about a reported one million dollar reward for information on U.S. POW/MIAs. Zaharoff stated that he met Lucashewich in 1944, in a prison transit camp in Puhtavanina, a seaport in the Soviet Far East. Lucashewich claimed to have been brought from China. Zaharoff and Lucashewich played together in the camp orchestra and thus got to know each other. Lucashewich was 38-42 years old, a good mechanic and wrestler, but a poor clarinet player. He mentioned many places in the U.S. and had spent a great deal of time in China, where he claimed to have been captured in Shanghai (quite literally "Shanghaied"). Zaharoff last saw Lucashewich in about 1953 when the "American" was placed in maximum security for planning an escape attempt. Zaharoff says that, in 1956, after his release, he received an anonymous letter in Tallinn with, he thinks, an East German postmark stating that Lucashewich was alive and well and would write soon, but no follow-up letter arrived. Zaharoff then offered a vignette that stretches the credibility of even the most battle-scarred POW/MIA researchers.

F. The TALLINN CITY MUSEUM wrote to say that they had found a notebook full of prisoner portraits from the Shudja camp in the Urals in the early 1950s. One had a dedication in English "For good memories," dated 2 October 1952, and an illegible signature. At the top of the portrait, the artist had written "Yankee" in Estonian.

G. ARTUR ROOPALU spent two days in a Vladivostok transit camp with two Americans in mid-September 1951. The Americans had arrived earlier and remained behind after Roopalu left. These Americans did not have contact with other prisoners. One of them was about 185cm tall, well-built and dark, while the other was about 180cm tall. In this camp, Roopalu heard that many Americans were taken from Khabarovsk to Magadan, from whence they were transported to remote camps in Kalama or Puhtavanina. {NOTE: This report tracks with others on the transport of U.S. POWs from Korea to the former Soviet Union. The time-frame is right, as is the route of transit and area of destination.]

H. The ESTONIAN STATE COMMISSION ON EXAMINATION OF THE POLITICS OF REPRESSION sent a copy of the memoirs of a German POW, Evald Schulz, written after his repatriation in 1953-54. The author mentions that, on 28 May 1946, he was taken through Molotov-Sulikamski-Burovsk to a Ural Mountains camp (about 450-500 kilometers from Molotov and about 3 kilometers from

the Kama River). The prisoners in the network of camps included about 5500 men, 1500 women and 500 children, including foreigners and some Americans.

I. HARALD ZOBER states that he traveled in the same rail car as an American in 1952, when he was taken from Kirov prison to a prison at Kotla, Komi. The American claimed to be a sailor, a greaser, who had escaped from his ship in Finland. He was about 180cm tall, with blue eyes. Zober believed the sailor had jumped ship due to Communist convictions.

J. FELIKS MOLDER states that, from February to April 1950, he was imprisoned in the Kirov distribution camp with an American named Harry Reder. [Note: See sub-paragraph 1.C. above reference Reder.]

K. HILLAR ERMA states that, at the end of 1945 or the beginning of 1946, he met a Canadian and an American soldier in a Ukraine prison camp. He could not remember whether it was in Darnitsa or in Poltava district. The American POW was embittered and gloomy and seldom spoke with the Canadian. The Canadian POW, Otto Hausman, said that he had been in a German POW camp in Denmark with the American, that they attempted to escape with the aid of the Danish resistance, but failed and were sent to Czechoslovakia. As the Red Army closed in, the camp was evacuated, but these two men managed to stay behind. Initially, the liberating Red Army promised to repatriate them, but they were sent to a prison camp in Ukraine along with German POWs.

L. FELIX PULLERITS states that he was imprisoned together with an American pilot named Lieberman in Building 18 of an MVD camp near Salavati town, Ishinbai District, Bashkiria. This occurred in the period between 1953 and 1955.

M. LIDIA HALLEMAA sent a photo, taken by her deceased brother, Otto Adler, in a camp in Vorkuta in 1955. She believes the photo might show Americans, since her brother told her that three or four Americans were imprisoned in the same camp. She offered no further information.

N. GUSTAV PEETS states that, while imprisoned in Gorlag 1 in Norilsk in 1951-1952, he lived and worked in a copper mine with an American (name unknown) who spoke some Russian. Peets believed the American was a Jew, based upon his physical characteristics. He was short, about 160cm tall, slim and dark. The American said that his parents had lived in Russia and that in 1947 or 1948 he came to Odessa as a tourist to visit the land where his parents had lived. In Odessa, he was arrested as a spy. The American was an engineer by profession.

O. LEO SIPELGAS returned to the embassy to elaborate on the two Americans with whom he had been imprisoned in 1954 in Steplag near Dzhezkazgan City, Kazakhstan. Both of the Americans were young. One was black, the other white. The white man was named Billy. Sipelgas made friends with Billy, since both he and Billy spoke German. Billy was about 20 years old, 182cm tall (Sipelgas and Billy measured themselves and discovered that they were the same height), with light hair and blue eyes. Following a bout with dystrophy, Billy's weight went down to about 45-50 kilograms. When Billy smiled, one corner of his mouth went higher than the other. Billy and the black American were great friends. Both played basketball very well and Sipelgas believed they had played for the same college team. Sipelgas also believed that they had both come from Dakota. Billy also played the saxophone. Billy told Sipelgas that, in 1951, just after joining the Army, the two men were assigned to Berlin. Early on, the two men decided to do some sightseeing, visited the Soviet sector, and were arrested as spies. Each man was sentenced to 10 years. At first, the Americans were taken to a prison camp at Taishet. Sipelgas said it was Soviet policy to move prisoners frequently to prevent them from getting too well acquainted. In 1954, when Sipelgas arrived at Steplager, the Americans had already been there for several months. Billy wrote to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow several times, but received no response. Sipelgas is convinced that the letters never left the camp system. When Sipelgas was freed in May/June of 1954, the Americans were still in Steplag. Later, another returning Estonian political prisoner told Sipelgas that the black American had died of pneumonia in a camp near Tshiskaskhan. Sipelgas belongs to the board of the Association of Political Prisoners of Estonia and is the chairman of the Parnu chapter. He stated that he and other former political prisoners were anxious to help the POW/MIA team. He requested copies of photos of missing

Americans, since most Estonians, in his view, could recognize the Americans with whom they were imprisoned.

P. I. KASK, who served in the Soviet Army in 1963, traveled to a gunnery range 100-200 kilometers north of Astrakhan. Local radar operators panicked when they detected an American plane. One of the officers explained that American planes often overflew the range and that the Soviets had orders not to shoot them down. However, if a plane happened to crash and the pilot survived, he was not to be imprisoned with ordinary prisoners. The officer also said that, up to 1963, no pilots whose planes had crashed had been executed.

Q. ELDUR HELEMAE stated that his deceased uncle, Johannes Lampmann, was imprisoned with 4-5 American POWs in Norilsk in 1946-47. One of the Americans fell ill with pneumonia or dysentery and stayed in the same hospital as Lampmann. The American said he and his comrades had been captured in Germany and sent to the Soviet Union. In Norilsk, the Americans were not allowed contact with other prisoners and were kept in a separate room. The Americans did not go to work and did not receive food in the prison, but lived on aid parcels. Helemae does not know where these parcels came from, but assumes the source was the Red Cross.

R. FELIX ROODVEE contacted a Peace Corps volunteer in Estonia and then the embassy to learn what had happened to five American pilots he had assisted during WWII. After deserting from the German Army and joining a band of Czech partisans, he was involved in the rescue of a U.S. "Liberator" aircrew. The Americans were Thomas O. McCarthy, James B. Tate, Mack H. Dias, Robert J. Webber, and Charles Jones (other crew members--Rosslyn C. Anderson, Robert E. Beach and Armando Carlino--were assisted by another partisan band). When the partisans were overtaken by the Red Army, the Americans were taken to Prague and repatriated. Roodvee has not seen the Americans since 9 May 1945, but is interested in information about Robert J. Webber, since the two men became good friends during their ordeal.

2. LITHUANIA: Letters and contacts, Amembassy Vilnius. For further details see MSGs AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 191431Z APRIL 93; 261531Z APRIL 93; AND 271435Z APRIL 93.

A. KAZYS GAILIUS states he was imprisoned with an American pilot (possibly Navy) in Camp #4 in Norilsk in the Krasnoyarsk Region between 1949-53. The American was known variously as Michael and John by the other prisoners and, although there were many Japanese prisoners, Michael was the only American. Michael was optimistic that he would one day be released and often spoke of his girlfriend in Arizona. Michael carried a pipe with him, but rarely had tobacco. He was medium-sized and had been born in the 1920s. He spoke Russian very poorly. Gailius became afraid to speak with Michael because the KGB started asking him why he saw so much of him and what they discussed. Following Stalin's death in 1953, Michael and the other foreign prisoners were taken to Chelyabinsk in the Urals. Gailius does not know what became of them, but believes they were all executed.

B. APOLONIJA PETRAITIENE encountered a Romanian woman en route to the Vorkuta camp system in 1947. The Romanian woman told her that, while in Odessa, she had seen many American officers. [Note: These were probably U.S. personnel in the repatriation process, which focused on Odessa as port of exit.]

C. JOHN AUDINIS, a U.S.-born Lithuanian national, stated that, in 1946-47, he heard that American pilot POWs held in Macikai had been executed by their German captors. He lived in the area after the war and heard the story frequently. [Note: Amembassy Vilnius is currently requesting authorization to exhume the remains of three U.S. WWII POWs allegedly buried in the Macikai Stalag cemetery.]

D. RYTIS ZABIELSKAS stated that Russian citizen Alla Borisovna Makarova (address: Komsomolskaya 38-5, Norilsk/Narilsk) may have information concerning U.S. POWs. According to Zabielskas, Makarova told her two years ago that there were either twenty or two hundred American POWs in the Narilsk camps, but, at the time, Zabielskas had no interest in U.S. POWs and thought nothing of it. Makarova stated that there were one or two black servicemen among the POWs.

E. Ceslovas Kareckas stated that the "Chief of U.S. Intelligence Service" in West Berlin had been kidnapped by Soviet counter-espionage personnel and imprisoned at (camp) P.O. Box Z-175/10, Vorkuta, Republic of Komi in the early 1950' s. Kareckas stated that, on 1 August 1953, a "massive shooting" of prisoners took place and he does not know if the American survived.

F. Jokubas Bruzdeilinas stated that he was imprisoned in the same camp (camp for political prisoners, Dzezkazgan Mines, Karaganda Region, Kazachskya SSR) with a U.S. pilot named Joseph, whose date of birth was approximately 1920. Joseph had been a major. His plane was shot down in Korea or Vietnam. He had documents showing he was a Lithuanian American and thus was sent to a camp for Lithuanians. Joseph claimed to have received a higher education and taught Bruzdeilinas English. The two men became friends. Bruzdeilinas believes Joseph was later sent on to Siberia. [Note: this letter did not give a time-frame.]

G. Bronius Skardzius stated that, in 1952, he encountered a group of Americans (and some Germans) in a transit jail in Novosibirsk. He recalls that the jail conditions were terrible, and that the Americans seemed strikingly mannerly and nice-looking. He stated, "I can only say that those people were related to the war in Korea." The Americans soon suffered from dysentery and were separated from the other prisoners. Skardzius never saw them again.

H. RAIMUNDAS BALTIUNAS stated that, during his exile to the village of Voronicha, Tomsk District, Parpik Region, from 1949-1952, he encountered a black whom he believed to be an American. This man worked in the local wood factory, then in the ceramic plant, and, finally, as a watchman. He disappeared in 1953. Baltiunas also noted that he had heard of other American and British prisoners during the years 1950 - 55.

I. RIMANTAS KISIELIUS stated that his father, Vincas Kisielius, met an American named "Laucins " in 1950 in the Spaska camp, Kazakhstan. Laucins, who spoke Lithuanian, claimed that he was an American citizen who had tried to board a ship bound for the U.S. in Gdansk in 1945 or 1946. He was arrested by the Soviets and sentenced to ten years in the camps. Born about 1920, Laucins played chess. He never received mail or packages like the other prisoners. He developed tuberculosis and died in the camp infirmary. The other prisoners suspected that the doctors had intentionally killed him.

J. ZDISLOVAS JUCHNEVICIUS taught the Russian language at Ho Chi Minh University in Vietnam from 1985 to 1989. While in Cuo Long in the Mekong Delta, he heard of an American officer who had refused to leave Vietnam in 1973 and had remained near Cuo Long until his death in 1985. The American was considered to be mentally unbalanced. Returning to Saigon, Juchnevicius told the story to his roommate, a Russian geologist. The geologist responded that he had heard exactly the same story in his travel--that a mentally-ill American officer had lived in the Cuo Long area on the Mekong River. Juchnevicius noted that, in four years in Vietnam, this was the only story he heard about Americans.

I. APOLINARIS KLIVECKAS worked as a doctor's aid in the infirmary at the Kairkam ("Death Field") camp near Narilsk. In 1952, shortly before Stalin's death, he was ordered to inspect twenty prisoners waiting at the guard gate. Two of them were so emaciated and exhausted that Kliveckas recommended they be placed in the camp infirmary. One was a Japanese officer from the Kwangtung Army, and the other was a U.S. pilot named Robertson. The American, who spoke Korean and also had a Korean name, Kim Sung Chung, later trained on-the-job as a nurse's aid in the infirmary. Robertson told Kliveckas that he was shot down over North Korea, and that his mother was Korean, but his father European. Robertson was first imprisoned in "Soviet Manchuria," then sent to Narilsk. After Kliveckas's release on 15 January 1955, he never saw Robertson again. Kliveckas cannot remember Robertson's home state but recalls that it is on the ocean and warm year round. Robertson spoke passable Russian and German, which he had learned from other prisoners in the camp system. Robertson told Kliveckas that there was one other American pilot in the Narilsk camps with whom he met regularly. This second pilot had been shot down in WWII and imprisoned by the Germans. Kliveckas presented two photographs of Robertson, claiming that, after Stalin's death, photos had been allowed as long as the subjects appeared happy. The photos are being forwarded.

J. POVILAS MARKEVICIUS stated that, in the spring of 1952, he encountered two Americans who said they had been sentenced to 25 years each. The Americans were rumored to be former intelligence agents. The camp address was Olzeraz Post Office, Miskii District, Kemerovskaja Oblast. They discussed escape possibilities with Markevicius, and one night they actually escaped. Markevicius does not know what became of them, but noted that, normally, the corpses of recaptured prisoners were displayed in the middle of the camp square. This did not occur on this occasion.

I. VYTAUTAS GOTAUTAS stated that, in the summer of 1949, in the transit camp at Buchta-Vanin near the Tatary Straits, he encountered a lieutenant from a submarine which had been captured by the Soviets near Liepaja in 1949. The crew of the ship, according to Gotautas, was composed of Americans of Baltic origin, each of whom was sentenced to 25 years upon capture. The lieutenant, whom Gotautas admired, was taken by ship to Magadan.

J. L. NEKIPELOV stated that a friend of his claimed to have encountered an American while imprisoned in Siberia in the post-WWII period. The American tried to talk prisoners who were being released into taking out letters to the U.S. embassy, but all of the prisoners were too afraid.

K. JONAS STROPAITIS stated that, during his imprisonment from 1950 to 1953 in the Mordova Prison, he encountered an American major named Harry Hopkins. [Note: Upon his release in the mid-1950s, "Harry Hopkins" turned out to be a Central European with no claim on U.S. citizenship.]

L. ANTANAS SERNIUS stated that he, too, had encountered "Harry Hopkins" in Mordova.